

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL BIEN HOA

AMCONSUL CAN THO

AMCONSUL DANANG

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL NHA TRANG

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TAGS: PFOR, XC, US

SUBJECT: JULY 31 EA PRESS SUMMARY

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INDOCHINA

1. HERSH (NYT), CORDDRY (SUN), GETLER (WP) AND VOLZ (NYDN) REPORT GEN. WHEELER TELLS SASC NIXON ORDERED SECRET CAMBODIAN BOMBING UNDER TIGHTEST SECURITY, SAYS MILITARY DEvised FALSE REPORTING PROCEDURE AND OUTLINED DETAILS IN MEMORANDA TO LAIRD. SYMINGTON RELEASES RYAN LETTER ACKNOWLEDGING N. LAOS RAIDS FALSELY REPORTED AS S. LAOS. WHEELER SAYS SECRECY WAS TO AVOID DIPLOMATIC PROBLEMS WITH SIHANOUK BUT SEN. HUGHES CHARGES SECRECY DUE WH CONCERN KEEP NEWS AWAY FROM ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT AND CONGRESS. WHEELER ASSERTS THOSE WITH NEED TO KNOW KEPT INFORMED INCLUDING KEY MEMBER SENATORS RUSSELL, STENNIS, DIRKSEN AND REPS. RIVERS, FORD, ARENDS (ALSO PHINQ, WSJ).

2. SUPREME COURT JUSTICE MARSHALL HELD 90-MINUTE HEARING MONDAY ON SUIT BY REP. HOLTZMAN AND 4 AF OFFICERS TO HALT MILITARY OPERATIONS IN CAMBODIA. MARSHALL EXPECTED TO RULE WITHIN 48 HOURS ON WHETHER CIRCUIT COURT STAY STANDS (UNGAR, WP; NYT, UPI; WSJ).

3. MEKONG CONVOY OF 7 TANKERS, 4 FREIGHTERS, 2 TUGS

UNDER US AIR COVER REACHES PP WITHOUT INCIDENT (UPI: NYT, NYDN; WP).

4. CAMBODIAN MILITARY POLICE BEGIN SPOT-CHECKS IN STREETS TO FIND DRAFT-DODGERS (AP: SUN, CHITRIB; WP; NYT, UPI).

5. SHARP CLASHES WITHIN FIVE MILES PP; GKR EVACUATES VILLAGE E BANK BASSAC 10 MILES SE PP; CLASH NEAR TAKHMAU 4 MILES SE PP. UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT US PHANTOM ACCIDENTALLY WOUNDED 14 MILITARY AND DEPENDENTS WHO WERE EVACUATED TO PP. B-52S HIT 12 MILES NW PP (UPI NYDN, NYT; AP PHINQ, CHITRIB). CAMBODIAN SPOKESMAN SAYS US BOMBING PAST 4 DAYS AND CAMBODIAN COUNTERATTACK WIPED OUT 1000 COMMUNISTS ON PP S PERIMETER (AP, CHITRIB; WP). RED FORCES WITHIN 2 MILES PP ON N UNCLASSIFIED

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DESPITE US AIR STRIKE LOSSES OF 600 (CSM). REBELS MAY BE SHIFTING PRESSURE PP FROM S TO NW (WP).

6. AFP REPORS MAIN QUESTIONS LAOS ACCORD SETTLED, BUT BOTH SIDES NEGOTIATING CAUTIOUSLY ON DETAILS TO ACHIEVE RECONCILIATION, WITH PL CLAIMING MADE IMPORTANT CONCESSIONS TO SHOW GOODWILL (NYT). PL AND RLG ON VERGE INITIALING AGREEMENT (CSM). BOTH

SIDES DENY AGREEMENT IMMINENT, BUT DIPLOMATIC SOURCES SAY ACCORD MAY BE INITIALED TODAY OR TOMORROW; RLG INTERIOR MINISTER SAYS NO AGREEMENT WILL BE SIGNED BEFORE END AUGUST (CHITRIB, REUTER).

7. CANADA CONFIRMS ICCS OUT OF MONEY, SPENT \$5.46 MILLION BUT AS OF JULY 20 LESS THAN \$200,000 LEFT. IN JULY 20 LETTER TO US, PRG, GVN, NVN STATED ICCS CAN NO LONGER MEET CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENTS. PRG CONTRIBUTING \$390,000 MORE, BUT CANADIAN SPOKESMAN SAYS PRG STILL \$300,000 SHY. ICCS ADOPTED JAN. 28, 1973 TO MAR. 31, 1974 BUDGET OF \$43 MILLION (CHITRIB, NYT, WP). ICCS \$10 MILLION IN DEBT (CHITRIB, NYT).

8. CANADIAN ICCS DELEGATION DEPARTS VN. HUNGARIAN ICCS SAYS DEPARTURE WILL BRING HALT TO INVESTIGATIONS WITH ICCS PLAYING CONSULTATIVE ROLE ONLY UNTIL REPLACEMENT FOUND (PHINQ, WP, UPI NYDN, NYT).

9. SVN AND CANADA AGREE TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AT AMBASSADORIAL LEVEL (WP; REUTER).

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10. SEIDEN (SUN) REPORTS VN POOREST FARMERS LOSE FAITH IN MIRACLE RICE BECAUSE IT REQUIRES MORE LABOR, CAPITAL EXPENDITURE FOR FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDE, WATER CONTROL. WITH INFLATION POOR CANNOT BUY FERTILIZER AND PESTICIDE, SO CROPS BAD.

11. OKA (CSM) SAYS THAT SOARING PRICES BASIC
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NECESSITIES, ESPECIALLY RICE, MAIN CRISIS IN SVN. WORLDWIDE SHORTAGE, HIGH PRICES PAID BY COMMUNISTS, TAXES, FARMERS HOLDING CROPS, COMPLICATIONS OF COLLECTION DUE TO LAND REFORM ALL CONTRIBUTE TO SUDDEN RECENT PRICE INCREASES.

12. TREASTER (NYT) DESCRIBES SITUATION CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE SVN DELTA WHERE FIGHTING PERSISTS. REDS MAY CONTROL 70 PERCENT OF TERRITORY THOUGH GVN HAS MAJORITY POPULATION. COMMUNISTS INTERESTED IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, BRINGING IN POPULATION FROM OTHER PROVINCES. GVN ATTACKS TO ENLARGE HOLD WHERE FEASIBLE. VC BUILDING STRONG ADMINISTRATION, GVN ADMINISTRATION WEAK AND CORRUPT. VC GRIP ON PROVINCE STRONG AND TIME MAY

BE ON THEIR SIDE.

AUSTRALIA

13. WHITLAM YESTERDAY MET WITH KISSINGER, THEN WITH PRESIDENT. LATER CONFERRED WITH SEC ROGERS AND SFRC MEMBERS; SEES VP TODAY. WH ANNOUNCED PREMIER AND PRES. HAD "REAFFIRMED THE IMPORTANCE THAT BOTH ATTACH" TO ANZUS AND HAD CONCURRED THAT BASIC SEATO AGREEMENT "REMAINS USEFUL" (NYDN, CARTER; NYT, GWERTZMAN; CHITRIB, BECKMAN; WP, KILPATRICK). PM TELLS NATIONAL PRESS CLUB AUDIENCE THAT AUSTRALIA IS NOT SATELLITE OF ANY COUNTRY, BUT FRIEND AND PARTNER OF US WITH INDEPENDENT INTERESTS; DEPLORES "DAMAGE WE OF WEST HAVE DONE TO OURSELVES AND TO OTHER PEOPLES BY OUR WESTERN IDEOLOGICAL PREOCCUPATIONS, PARTICULARLY IN SEASIA" (AP PHINQ; WSJ). ADDS THERE ARE "CLEARLY SOME SHORTCOMINGS IN SEATO" AND ORGANIZATION NEEDS REVAMPING (CARTER), AND THAT GOA WANTS TO "MOVE AWAY FROM THE NARROW VI" THAT ANZUS TREATY IS "ONLY SIGNIFICANT FACTOR" IN US-AUSTRALIAN RELATIONS (GWERTZMAN). DECLARES US CONNECTION IS "UNDOUBTEDLY" MOST IMPORTANT OF GOA'S RELATIONSHIPS (BECKMAN, KILPATRICK), BUT DEFENDS CANBERRA'S POLICY OF "DIPLOMATIC EVEN-HANDEDNESS" IN ESTABLISHING TIES WITH NVN AND PRC. STILL DOES NOT AGREE THAT NVN XMAS BOMBING LED TO C-F AGREEMENT
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(KILPATRICK).

14. SUN'S KEAT FEELS WHITLAM "WENT A LONG WAY YESTERDAY TOWARD REPAIRING HIS FRAYED RELATIONS" WITH NIXON, AND CONCLUDES THAT "BOTH LEADERS WERE ANXIOUS TO PUT THE BEST FACE ON THEIR MEETING." WITH GWERTZMAN, KEAT OBSERVES THAT PM "ALL BUT INVITED HIMSELF TO TALK WITH THE RELUCTANT" PRESIDENT BY ACCEPTING PRESS CLUB SPEAKING ENGAGEMENT.

15. TRADE FIGURES RELEASED YESTERDAY ON US-AUSTRALIAN TRADE SHOW US HAD SURPLUS OF NEARLY \$100 MILLION DURING FIRST 6 MONTHS OF THIS YEAR; US HAD SMALL DEFICIT DURING SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR (JOC).

JAPAN

16. TANAKA BEGINS US TALKS TODAY (AP PHINQ). CSM CARRIES PROFILE ON PREMIER -- "CERTAINLY THE MOST 'JAPANESE' AND THE LEAST WESTERNIZED OF THE NATION'S

POSTWAR PRIME MINISTERS."

17. US TRADE DEFICIT WITH JAPAN FOR FIRST 6 MONTHS
OF 1973 HAS BEEN SLASHED TO UNDER \$800 MILLION,
ACCORDING TO COMMERCE DEPT. (UPI, JOC).

CHINA

18. NCNA REPORTS PRC PRODUCTION OF WHEAT, BARLEY
AND OTHER SUMMER CROPS WAS EQUAL TO LAST YEAR'S
RECORD HARVESTS (WP).

19. SAIKOWSKI (CSM) REPORTS THAT US BUSINESS WITH
PRC IS TAKING "BIG LEAP FORWARD." CONTRARY TO
ALL EARLIER FORECASTS, 2-WAY TRADE IS EXPECTED TO
REACH BETWEEN \$600 MILLION - \$700 MILLION THIS YEAR
AND POSSIBLY MORE, DUE PRINCIPALLY TO ORDERS FOR
US GRAIN. TREND "WILL HAVE A SIGNIFICANT IMPACT"
ON SINO-US RELATIONS, BECAUSE TRADE NOW "IS GROSSLY
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OUT OF BALANCE" AND GAP IS WIDENING. CHINESE LOSE
NO OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE WITH TRAVELING AMERICAN
BUSINESSMEN OR USG OFFICIALS SUBJECT OF MFN TREATMENT
FOR CHINESE GOODS. "CLEARLY THEY FEEL DISCR
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